



Minutes of the Board of Directors of the Iowa Extension Council Association

January 12, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Iowa Extension Council Association met via Zoom videoconference on January 12, 2023.

Those present include Kelly Jared, Megan Fagle, Gwen Hanson, Joy Prothero, Kim Rinker, Jenny Lichty, Kasey Peters, Tom Monroe, Sara Neuzil, Philip Masters, Mollie Scott, Mark Davitt, Ryan Freese, Sterling Young. Also present were Dr. John Lawrence, Andrea Nelson, Cindy Gannon, Jennifer Vit, and Julie Baumler.

President-Elect Kelly Jared called the meeting to order. Due to schedule conflicts, executive reports were moved to the beginning of the meeting.

Dr. John Lawrence, Vice President for Extension and Outreach gave an ISU Extension and Outreach update. He reported that Jason Henderson has been appointed as the new Vice President for Extension and Outreach. Dr. Lawrence will be meeting with him regularly between now and his start date to help him get oriented to ISU Extension and Outreach.

Dr. Lawrence also shared that an MOU Town Hall was held on Jan. 11. It has been recorded and the link will be shared with all council members and staff once it is captioned. The MOU draft and addendums are available online for councils to view the changes. An official copy will be emailed to all council chairs for signing. The MOU goes into effect on July 1, 2023 and should be signed prior to that. The goal is to have them in by April 30.

A County Services update was shared by Andrea Nelson, Asst. Vice President for County Services. She shared the following updates:

- Gene Mohling announced his retirement as of March 8, 2023. They will be looking for a replacement for a director of field operations. They plan to open that position soon. This person will either be serving the southern counties or eastern counties.
- Brynn Friedrich has been appointed as the new Region 10 director
- An offer has been accepted for the Region 5 director and will be announced soon
- With a new MOU, there is an opportunity for county offices to request to house the regional director.

Jennifer Vit gave the IECA Executive Director report with the following updates:

- EAP reenrollment – invoices will be sent out to counties soon. Currently we are charging \$25/employee to counties. We do not anticipate that there will be an increase in rates but have yet to confirm the 2023-24 rates with Employee & Family Resources.
- Board elections will be taking place in Regions 2, 4, 7, 9, 10 & 28, 21, 22, 24, and 26. Julie will be contacting directors in those regions to determine if they will be running for re-election. Nominations will be open in February and March with elections in April.

- Fiscal workshops for treasurers and council chairs will be held throughout the state in February and March. Board members are encouraged to help recruit the chairs and treasurers in their region to attend.

Moving back to the agenda order, Joy moved to approve the agenda. Ryan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Joy moved to approve the minutes from Nov. 19, 2022. Ryan seconded. The motion carried.

In the absence of Treasurer Jamie Thompson, Julie Baumler shared the treasurer's report. The is a balance on hand of \$38,477.59. Ryan moved to approve. Phillip seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The following bills were presented:

- Whitfield & Eddy, \$1,775 for November
- MailChimp, \$33.16 for December; \$42.27 for January (total = \$75.43)
- ISU Printing, \$173.10
- Midwest Speakers Bureau, \$500 for Extension Council Conference speaker
- Jennifer Vit, \$42.28 for November board meeting refreshments

Joy moved to approve the bills. Jenny seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Jenny moved to approve Megan Fagle, Linn County as the new Region 11 Board Member for the remainder of the term ending in 2024. Ryan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IECA dues for 2023-2024 were discussed. Joy moved to leave dues the same for FY 24:

Tier	Population	Dues FY24
1	0 – 19,999	\$240
2	20,000 – 49,999	360
3	50,000+	600

Tom seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Joy moved to approve the following edit to the IECA Board Process Issues to allow the paying of the legal services bills in a timely manner by the executive committee: "Executive Board may approve up to \$2,000 in association's available funds *in addition to recurring legal aid expenses up to \$5,000.*" Sara seconded the motion. The motion carried with Tom Monroe voting nay.

The Extension Council Conference will be held via Zoom on February 2 from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. and February 7 from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. There are currently 20 people registered. Newly appointed Vice President for Extension and Outreach Jason Henderson will be able to join us for the first evening. He will introduce himself to the council members and staff. Andrea is our Keynote speaker for Feb. 2. Erik Dominguez is our keynote speaker for Feb. 7. There are 15 breakout sessions scheduled. Board members are encouraged to sign up as breakout rooms hosts and to work with their regional directors to help recruit participants from their region to attend the conference.

The board discussed their legislative agenda for 2023. There is currently no key issue that we will ask legislators to support. However, we will be keeping tabs on the property tax reform that the legislators want to work on this year. At this point, Extension is slated for level funding in the governor's budget.

The IECA Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for February 15 at the Capitol in Des Moines. The structure will be targeted at educating legislators so we can help them learn who ISU Extension and

Outreach is and how we help lowans. Key legislators (House, Senate, and committee leadership) will be invited to a come and go breakfast. Extension council members from their districts will also be invited to be there to visit with them and talk about the importance of Extension in our communities. We also want to know which council members will be there so we can make sure their legislators are invited and we have materials (county stakeholder reports). We are putting together some talking points and laying out a plan for how council members can contact their legislators – either at the breakfast or in their home district.

Board members may be asked for assistance in identifying council members who would be able to talk with their legislator that day. Additionally, we will promote the legislative breakfast to council members at our extension council conference on Feb. 2 & 7.

Mark moved to allow reimbursement to extension districts for council member lodging and mileage expenses to attend the legislative breakfast. Lodging will be reimbursed at 50% of actual expenses not to exceed \$55. Mileage will be reimbursed at the IRS rate of \$.655/mile not to exceed \$50. Vouchers will need to be submitted to IECA for reimbursement. Tom seconded the motion. Discussion noted that this is an investment in making sure our legislators understand the value of ISU Extension and Outreach. The motion carried with Joy and Kasey voting no.

As this is the last IECA full board meeting before his retirement, the board thanked Dr. Lawrence for his support for IECA and councils and wished him the best in retirement.

Tom moved to adjourn the meeting. Sterling seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Lamgo, IECA Secretary